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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I love my country, and I rise today because it is important for us to understand this impeachment process. Whether you agree with the bringing of impeachment or not, it is appropriate to understand the process.

Today, I would like to share a few words about the impeachment process

some 85 days since the Mueller report was presented wherein Mr. Mueller all but indicated that impeachable acts occurred. I have my mnemonic notes that I shall refer to.

The impeachment process itself starts and ends in the House. The House of Representatives and only the House of Representatives can impeach a President. It is very similar to an indictment but not the same as an indictment. Once the impeachment actually takes place, then the process moves to the Senate.

Today, I am going to focus on the House of Representatives. Perhaps we will talk about the Senate on another occasion.

The impeachment process is not an appealable process. Once the House gives its verdict, if you will—a majority of persons present voting for impeachment—there is no appeal. It doesn't go to a friendly court that a President might have. It won't go to the Supreme Court ultimately, where some would contend that the Court is divided along party lines.

I happen to think that judges ought to vote based upon what they perceive the law to be. I tend to give judges the benefit of the doubt when it comes to making their decisions, but there are many who perceive this to be the case.

It is not appealable. It is something that is totally within the province of the House of Representatives.

This vote is a vote of conscience, and this is where I would like to focus a good deal of my energy today.

A vote of conscience means that you vote based upon what your conscience dictates. There will be no instructions given to persons who will vote. Generally speaking, a jury would receive some sort of instructions, indicating that they should make certain findings. There will be no instructions. There will be no indication that we have to do this based upon clear and convincing evidence, that we have to

find beyond a reasonable doubt that something occurred, or that we should do it by a preponderance of the evidence. There is no standard that will be given to Members as they cast their ballots. It is something that each Member does, and it is a vote of conscience.

Now, the question can become, "Whose conscience will it be?" because if you take another person's recommendation and you vote based upon that recommendation, then you could conceivably vote another person's conscience.

I will vote my conscience. I will not be guided by what others, who may be voting based upon political expediency, think. Members can vote based upon political expediency if they so choose. I will vote based upon a moral imperative.

I will vote my conscience, and I will do this because I believe that in this country, the country that I love—I rise because I love my country—that we ought not allow any person to be above the law.

The law of which I speak is Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution. No one should be above the law, but this is the law that governs impeachment. No one should be above the law, and I believe that for some 85 days now since the Mueller report, we have evidence that the Chief Executive Officer has been above the law.

There will be a vote on impeachment. Each Member of this august body has a preeminent privilege of bringing impeachment before the body. I happen to be a Member, and I want to assure all that impeachment is not dead.

I read a story today where there was an indication that it has stalled or has slowed. I want my colleagues to know that I may stand alone when I do this, as this is what my conscience dictates, but I believe that it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

I will stand. There will be another vote. I am asking that all do what I believe is expected, and that is to vote

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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